

Karnataka has requested the Union Government to declare it as a national project; and

(d) If the same is not accepted by the Union Government, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) The latest estimated cost of the Upper Krishna Project Phase I & II (Stage-I) is Rs. 1553.58 crores.

(b) An amount of Rs.629.28 crores has been incurred till 3/91 and an amount of Rs.107 crores is likely to be spent during 1991-92.

(c) and (d). Upper Krishna Project gets covered as a project of national importance according to the criteria evolved by Central Water Commission. This Ministry's proposals to take up this scheme for providing special Central Assistance for expeditious completion during VIII Plan has not been accepted by the Planning Commission.

Postal Stamp for Ganesh Festival

5204. SHRI ANNA JOSHI.
SHRI RAM NAIK

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to issue a special postal stamp to mark the centenary of the Ganesh festival started by Lokmanya Tilak;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) to (c). A Philatelic Advisory Committee functions to advise the Government regarding issue of Commemorative/ special postage stamps etc. The propose, regarding the issue of a special postage stamp to mark the centenary of Ganesh Festival will be placed before this

Committee, for consideration, at their next meeting.

[Translation]

Introduction of Flight between Bombay and Jalgaon

5205. DR. GUNWANTI RAMBHAI SARODE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce a flight between Bombay and Jalgaon;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be introduced; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise

(c) For commercial and operational reasons it is not possible for Vayudoot to airlink any new station at the present juncture.

T.V. Relay Centres at Patna

5206. SHRI CHHEDUPASWAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to expand the capacity of Patna T.V. relay centre; and

(b) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefore?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS) : (a) and (b). A high power (10KW) TV transmitter is at present functioning at Patna and there is no proposal to augment its capacity. The interim TV studio set-up presently functioning at Patna is expected to be replaced by a

fulledged TV studio set-up during 1993-94.

[English]

Upper Thunga Project

5207. SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES:
SHRI KODAKANI GOWDANA
SHIVAPPA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state

(a) whether the Union Government have received the modified Upper Thunga Project report from the Government of Karnataka for techno-economic appraisal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which approval is likely to be accorded; and

(d) the estimated amount likely to be spent on the project along with the share of the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) to (d). The modified Upper Thunga Project Report estimated to cost Rs. 379.87 crores and envisaging annual irrigation of 94,698 hectares has been received recently in February, 1992. As per the present policy, irrigation projects are funded by the State Governments themselves out of their plan resources.

Tapping Non-Conventional Energy

5208. SHRI AMAL DATTA: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far in tapping non-conventional energy;

(b) the experience with regard to capital cost and running cost per unit of energy; and

(c) the details of programme for extension of non-conventional energy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : (a) For tapping non-conventional energy sources, a comprehensive programme of research, development, demonstration and dissemination of new and renewable energy systems and devices has been taken-up in the country. These programmes are being implemented through various State Governments and implementing agencies, besides autonomous institutions and research organisations. Attached Statement brings out status of progress made in the implementation of various types of non-conventional energy systems and devices.

(b) Many of the new and renewable energy systems and devices are becoming more and more popular and cost effective with the assistance and efforts made by the Central and State Governments/Nodal Agencies and Research Organisations. Capital cost of some of the systems apparently appears high when compared with conventional energy systems. However, a critical socio-economic cost analysis including direct and indirect costs together with cost to the society and overall environmental cost, most of the non-conventional energy systems and devices may prove to be cost effective in the long run. Further, in a few cases where the technology is in the process of development, the same may become cost effective in case the availability of some of the conventional energy sources reaches near exhaustion limits over a period of time in the future.

New and renewable energy sources such as, sun, wind and water being free, the running cost towards fuel is generally negligible. However, as many of these systems are installed generally in the open atmosphere, appropriate and adequate maintenance is required to be provided.

(c) The Government is encouraging development, production and wider use of new and renewable energy sources for various types of centralised as well as decentralised applications. Research devel-